

# Fact Sheet: Teens & Tobacco



## **DID YOU KNOW?**

**Maryland law prohibits the sale of tobacco products, including tobacco paraphernalia and electronic nicotine devices (e-cigarettes), to anyone under the age of 18.**

### **Awareness**

**Howard County Health Department educates local tobacco retailers, community partners and the public about Maryland's tobacco laws to prevent sales of tobacco items to minors in Howard County.**

### **Advocacy**

**Enforcement Officers and trained minors conduct random and unannounced tobacco retailer "stings" for the 200+ Howard County tobacco retailers to ensure compliance with Maryland's tobacco sales laws.**

### **Action**

- ⊙ ***If smoking continues at the current rate among youth in this country, 5.6 million of the nation's population younger than 18, or 1 of every 13 Americans aged 17 years or younger alive today, will die early from a smoking-related illness . US DHHS 2014***
- ⊙ ***Tobacco use by minors has dramatically increased in Maryland & in Howard County, especially for flavored tobacco items like e-cigarettes, cigarillos, hookah, vaping products, and other smokeless tobacco.***
- ⊙ ***Federal & State enforcement "stings" of a sampling of Tobacco Retailors across Maryland showed increased rates of selling tobacco products to minors from 21% (2013) to 31% (2014). FFY 2014 & 2015 SYNAR***
- ⊙ ***Federal & State enforcement of the selected Howard County Tobacco Retailors for sales of tobacco products to minors ranked 11<sup>th</sup> highest in the State with violation rates of 20.6% in 2013 to 27.8% in 2014. FFY 2015 SYNAR***
- ⊙ ***Local enforcement of all Howard County's Tobacco Retailors showed violation rates of 14% in 2014-15.***
- ⊙ ***Federal & State enforcement of the selected Howard County Tobacco Retailors for sales of tobacco products to minors showed 0% violation rates in 2015. FFY 2016 SYNAR Local enforcement violations rates are 3% in 2015.***

**Educate teens to choose wiser and live longer. Help youth to not buy tobacco!**



Visit our website: [www.hchealth.org](http://www.hchealth.org)

Or

Contact Howard County Health Department-Health Promotion

@ 410-313-6292

for upcoming community programs\_about youth & tobacco



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